

ROYAL BIRTHDAY FELICITATIONS.

MR. E. P. VARUGHESE (*Ambalapuzha cum Shertalai*): Let me at the outset thank you, Sir, for the permission which you so kindly accorded to me to bring this motion before this Assembly. It is my pleasant task and privilege to place, for the unanimous acceptance of this House, this motion for offering felicitations to His Highness the Maharaja on His Highness' 26th birthday.

The Royal Birthday has been celebrated with great joy and splendour throughout the land. The echoes of those celebrations are still ringing in our ears.

This session of the Assembly meeting as it does in such close proximity to the birthday of His Highness can very appropriately be called the Birthday Session. It is therefore in the fitness of things that this House, which as at present constituted owes its origin to the very first act of reform His Highness the Maharaja, offers its loyal birthday greetings to His Highness.

His Highness has completed 25 years of age and 6 years of reign. During the short period of 6 years, His Highness has effected reforms which have immortalised the name Sri Chitra Thirunal Bala Rama Varma Maharaja, and has earned for the State a name and fame quite unique in the annals of her history. It is not necessary for me to recount before this House the various reforms which His Highness has been bringing into effect year after year. By that single act of wise and bold statesmanship—I mean the Temple Entry Proclamation attention not only of the whole of India but of the whole world has been drawn to Travancore. It has placed Travancore in the fore-front of Indian States. The resolution, conveying tribute of praise and congratulation to His Highness the Maharaja passed by the Madras Legislative Assembly—the very first of its kind—the decision of the citizens of Madras to erect a statue of His Highness, our beloved Maharaja, in that great City, the decision of the Andhra University to confer Doctorate degrees on His Highness the Maharaja and Her Highness the Maharani, bear ample testimony to the esteem in which His Highness the Maharaja and His beloved mother Her Highness the Maharani are held outside the State. It is a matter of legitimate pride for us, Travancoreans, that the first Indian Prince whose statue is to be erected outside the State is that of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.

The establishment of a University for Travancore is one of the latest acts of wise statesmanship of His Highness the Maharaja. What fitter consummation the educationally advanced people of a country can have than the establishment of a University. With its aim of developing technical and technological education, our University will turn out to be the first University of modern industrial India. In its aim of conserving and promoting Kerala art and culture, this University of ours will, in all probability, be the fore-runner and nucleus of a future Kerala University.

His Highness' tour in the Dutch East Indies has been of very great educative value. The change of hours of business in the schools, Courts, and Public Offices is a reform of very far-reaching consequences. The Agricultural and Industrial Bank which is expected to be opened soon will give an impetus to the development of the industry and serve as a means of relieving the indebtedness of the agriculturists. Thus, the industrialisation of the State and a new orientation of outlook in the life, culture and habits of the people will, I am sure, enable us to play a proper part in the rapidly progressing India. In His Highness the Maharaja we have a ruler who has dedicated His Life to the welfare of his people and the progress and prosperity of the State. The tour of His Highness the Maharaja in South Travancore when the agrarian population there was suffering from one of the worst droughts and the large remission of taxes on the spot are other instances of the great sympathy which His Highness the Maharaja has for the suffering subjects. Blessed are the people who are ruled by such a benevolent Sovereign. The spontaneous outbursts of joy we witness every year during the Birthday week through the length and breadth of Travancore bear ample testimony to the abiding place which His Highness the Maharaja has secured in the hearts of the subjects. We the accredited representatives of the People of the land wish to place on record our feelings of loyalty and devotion to the person and throne of His Highness the Maharaja. Echoing the sentiments expressed in the thousands of greetings that resounded throughout the country during the Birthday week I place the following motion for the acceptance of this House :—

This Assembly respectfully tenders its loyal greetings to His Gracious Highness the Maharaja on His Highness' Twenty-Sixth Birthday and prays the almighty to vouchsafe His Gracious Highness a long happy and glorious reign.

Sir, I request you to convey this message to His Highness the Maharaja.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI (*Nominated*) : I second it.

PRESIDENT : Probably the best plan would be to carry the motion without any further discussion. Before doing so, may I be permitted to associate myself as the head of His Highness' Government with those expressions at once so felicitous and so appropriate in which the resolution has been moved by Mr. Varghese. This is the unanimous wish not only of every Travancorean but of every wise and patriotic Indian that His Highness will have a long, happy and glorious reign.

The motion was put to vote and carried unanimously, all the members standing.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

Land Revenue 3.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 1,891 under Land Revenue. This amount is required for the appointment of a special Officer and staff for the investigation of the different varieties of Oodukur tenure obtaining in the various taluks of the State. I think it will be appropriate, Sir,